



Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg
(312) 353-4213

Media Contact: Bri Bill
(312) 353-6646

Legal Contact: Roger Grimes
(312) 886-6595

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NEXT STEP IN FOX RIVER CLEANUP: EPA SUBMITS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION TO NATIONAL REMEDY REVIEW BOARD

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, in cooperation with its five intergovernmental partners, today submitted a preliminary cleanup recommendation for Wisconsin's Lower Fox River to EPA's national Remedy Review Board.

This material will not be submitted for public review.

The EPA Remedy Review Board process is an internal peer review for all proposed cleanups of more than \$30 million. The board, composed of senior Superfund managers and technical experts from EPA headquarters and regional offices, meets regularly to review major projects for technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and consistency with other Superfund sites nationally and EPA policy.

"Submittal of EPA's preliminary recommendation is an important procedural step that ensures that the final cleanup plan has absolute integrity and a technical foundation upon which to proceed to a final cleanup plan, to which we would hope all stakeholders could agree," said

Regional Administrator Francis X. Lyons.

"The material submitted to the review board is not, by any means, a final EPA plan for the Fox River, nor does it mean the Fox will be designated as an official Superfund site. However, for the purposes of an internal review, the material submitted to the Remedy Review Board does include a plausible cleanup plan for consideration. The range of costs for this plan approximates the work previously developed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources."

The Remedy Review Board will meet in late July to discuss current proposals, including the preliminary Fox cleanup plan, and will provide EPA Region 5 and its partner agencies with advisory recommendations by early September. The comments will then be discussed with the partner agencies and considered for the proposed cleanup plan. The proposed cleanup plan will be presented to the public in early 2000, in conjunction with a 60-day comment period and several public meetings.

As required by the Remedy Review Board process, both the potentially responsible parties (Fox River Group) and the technical assistance grant group (Clean Water Action Council) have been notified that they may summarize in writing any concerns or issues that they believe important to the board's review of the issues.

The material submitted to the Remedy Review Board does not address financial issues associated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Natural Resources Damage Assessment.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency		Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-2000 or (800) 621-8431 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI)	

Page maintained by: [Kristen Tyrpin](#), Office of Public Affairs

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